

Classic character archetypes make for legendary stories! Throughout history, certain types of people show up again and again in the stories we tell. And sometimes, especially in speculative genres, they aren't technically... *human*, even though they fill an archetypal role (the Hero, the Jester, the Magician, the Lover, etc). Remember: This is a reference sheet only; check the Season Themes page on GoHavok.com for more details about each archetype and to verify which months are open for submissions and which are closed.

RULER / REBEL

Do you relate more to the king or the outlaw? Now is your chance to explore one or both archetypes. The mayor is seeking the source of a crime spree in a Mystery Monday puzzler. Or a maverick private investigator rejects the conclusions of the local police and finds the true culprit. Set the story a futuristic universe and you've got science fiction for Techno Tuesday. A rebel prankster (or stuffy headmaster) at a magic school could make for a Wacky Wednesday or Fantasy Friday tale. **Note:** your "ruler" can be any type of leader, good or bad. Your "rebel" (aka "outlaw") can be anyone bucking the established rules. Do these two characters clash or do they work together? You tell us!

HERO / MAGICIAN

Heroes come in many shapes and sizes. They may perform a random act of kindness or a massive feat of self-sacrifice. Helping someone in need is heroic, whether it's a cup of cold water or an epic army arriving just in time. The Magician can be a shaman, healer, or wizard, often a trickster, and if you spin it as a technological whiz it could fit science fiction. Contrast Thor and Loki to spin the hero and magician in a mythological direction.

CREATOR / EXPLORER

The creator can be anything from artist to architect, scientist to inventor. They love progress and forward thinking as well as the arts. The explorer loves freedom and individualism. To spin it as a mystery, have an engineer solving a problem or scientist facing a puzzle. A medieval blacksmith tale fits fantasy or put a mechanic on a spaceship in crisis for thriller or science fiction. An absent-minded inventor (or lost explorer) makes for wacky fun.

EVERYMAN / JESTER

The everyman is also known as the orphan. They are looking for security and belonging in the face of crisis and trauma. What a great contrast with the jester, who seems to just want to have fun. But jesters can also use humor to heal or hide trauma. Pairing these two could provide an interesting contrast or comedic effect.

CAREGIVER / LOVER

Publishing the month of Thanksgiving, this theme is about people who love and care for others. The lover is all about lasting, meaningful relationships and the fear of being alone. The caregiver is also known as the "mother" and is all about compassion and caring for others, sometimes to the point of martyrdom. Remember we're also looking for mystery lovers and comedic caregivers, and life-and-death thrillers (secret agent lovers, anyone?). Draconic fathers, shapeshifting playboys, and protective griffins are great fantasy material. For Techno Tuesday add a time travel twist, a long-distance relationship across the solar system, or a mothership.

INNOCENT / SAGE

The sage can show up as a mentor, mystic, or guide, always pursuing growth based on truth. The innocent is all about happiness, sincerity and optimism. What a great theme for a theme publishing during the Christmas month. Only true innocence may touch the unicorn, they say. Bring a mystery before a wise oracle and see what happens. A vampire who's lived four thousand years has matured a bit—or has he? When naivete meets the real world it could be a near-death experience or something to laugh about for years to come.

Supplemental Theme Notes

Below are some helpful links to resources about each of the twelve character archetypes we are featuring during our *Casting Call* season. We hope you will find this information useful in shaping your characters and crafting your plot! Check the Season Themes page on GoHavok.com for information on submission deadlines for each theme.

REMEMBER! Our editors are looking for mysteries, action adventure thrillers, and comedic scenarios as well as science fiction and fantasy.

The twelve Casting Call archetypes (with alternate names to help you research ideas):

- Ruler (king, leader, captain)
- Rebel (outlaw, maverick)
- Hero (warrior, savior, rescuer)
- Magician (shaman, healer, visionary)
- Creator (artist, inventor, musician, dreamer, writer)
- Explorer (seeker, wanderer, pilgrim)
- Everyman (orphan, realist, citizen, good neighbor)
- Jester (fool, trickster)
- Caregiver (saint, altruist, parent, helper)
- Lover (spouse, intimate, friend)
- Innocent (child, romantic, dreamer, idealist)
- Sage (thinker, expert, mentor, philosopher, teacher)

Online Resources

<https://www.helpingwritersbecomeauthors.com/category/characters/>

<http://charactertherapist.blogspot.com/search/label/Character%20Archetypes>

<https://arielhudnall.com/category/archetypes/>

<https://writersencyclopedia.com/character-archetypes-in-literature/>

<https://www.writerswrite.co.za/the-12-common-archetypes/>

<https://susannabarlow.com/tag/archetypes/>

Using the season themes to inspire you, send us a story that fits any of the following daily flash genres:

MYSTERY MONDAY: From cozy to crime scene, start your week off with a bit of mystery. Creep through downtown foggy London Town, spy on secret agents at a midnight meeting, catch up with an old friend who may or may not be a cat burglar, or just figure out who stole your homework before the last bell rings. It doesn't have to be a classic mystery with detectives, clues, murder, or theft. If it's mysterious, uncertain, or unknown, take us on a journey through the dark and shine a bit of light on the hidden—and maybe even startling—truth.

Sub-genres: Amateur sleuth (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*), cozy/whodunit (Agatha Christie), crime (*The Departed*), legal/medical (*A Few Good Men*), noir (*Blade Runner*), police procedural (*Silence of the Lambs*), professional sleuth (Sherlock Holmes), supernatural (*The Woman in Black*), psychological horror (*Sphere*)

TECHNO TUESDAY: As your week hits its stride, don't be afraid to ask, "What if..." What if NASA really is covering for the aliens? What if your new cell phone comes with a free brain implant? What if a radioactive spider gives you super powers? What if time travel vacations are a thing of the past? With Havok, even the mysteries of the universe aren't too great to explore over your morning cup of coffee.

Sub-genres: Hard sci-fi (*The Martian*), soft sci-fi (*Spider-Man*), military (*Starship Troopers*), space opera (*Star Wars*, *Dune*), steampunk (*The Time Machine*), cyber/bio/nanopunk (*The Matrix*), voyages extraordinaire (Jules Verne), gothic (*Frankenstein's Monster*), dystopian (*The Hunger Games*)

WACKY WEDNESDAY: Halfway done, and who couldn't use a little humor over their lunch break? Well, embrace the lighter side of Havok as you laugh your stress away, 1,000 words at a time. Whether you're running alongside a hilariously unfortunate private eye, hitching a ride across the galaxy, helping a kid defend his home from Christmas burglars, enjoying a "sick day" with a high school adventurer, or going on an epic quest to find a holy grail, you can rest assured that your adventure will be anything but serious.

Sub-genres: Forget 'em! What would Wacky Wednesday be with a bunch of rules? If it's funny, lighthearted, and downright entertaining, you're hitting the mark.

THRILLER THURSDAY: As your week races to a close, get caught up in some heart-pumping excitement. Run down a terrorist before time runs out. Infiltrate a secret society before they collect the last relic. Untangle a sociopath's plot before he pins the whole thing on you. Take down a crime boss before he takes you down. And do it all before your kids wake up from their afternoon nap.

Sub-genres: Action (*James Bond*), adventure (*Indiana Jones*), conspiracy (*The Da Vinci Code*), crime (*Die Hard*), medical (*Outbreak*), man vs. nature (*Jaws*, *Twister*)

FANTASY FRIDAY: TGI fantasy! Now, sit back and drift into another world filled with high elves, amateur wizards, magic wardrobes, suave vampires, and gun-slinging monster hunters. With Havok, there's no limit to how far the story will take you as you kick your feet up and usher in another fantastic weekend.

Sub-genres: Fairy tales (*Cinderella*), horror (*Dracula*), high fantasy (*The Lord of the Rings*), low fantasy (*Harry Potter*), magical realism (*Midnight in Paris*), medieval (*A Game of Thrones*), portal (*The Chronicles of Narnia*), urban/paranormal (*The Dresden Files*)